



INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332-227]

Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act: Impact on U.S. Industries and Consumers and on Beneficiary Countries

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Scheduling of public hearing and opportunity to submit information in connection with the Commission's 24th report.

SUMMARY: The Commission is inviting the public to appear at the public hearing and or to submit information in writing in connection with the preparation of its 24th report under section 215 of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, which requires the Commission to report biennially to the Congress and the President by September 30 of each reporting year on the economic impact of the Act on U.S. industries and U.S. consumers and on the economy of the beneficiary countries. The report is being prepared under Commission investigation No. 332-227, *Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act: Impact on U.S. Industries and Consumers and on Beneficiary Countries*. The report will cover trade during calendar years 2017 and 2018, and will be transmitted to Congress and the President by September 30, 2019.

DATES: May 3, 2019: Deadline for filing requests to appear at the public hearing.

May 8, 2019: Deadline for filing pre-hearing briefs and statements.

May 14, 2019: Public hearing.

May 21, 2019: Deadline for filing post-hearing briefs and statements.

June 3, 2019: Deadline for filing all other written submissions.

September 30, 2019: Transmittal of Commission report to Congress and the President.

ADDRESSES: All Commission offices, including the Commission's hearing rooms, are located in the United States International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC. All written submissions should be addressed to the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E

Street SW, Washington, DC 20436. The public file for this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <https://edis.usitc.gov/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Project Leader Heather Wickramarachi (202-205-2699 or Heather.Wickramarachi@usitc.gov) or Deputy Project Leader Stephanie Fortune-Taylor (202-205-2749 or Stephanie.Fortune-Taylor@usitc.gov) for information specific to this investigation. For information on the legal aspects of this investigation, contact William Gearhart of the Commission's Office of the General Counsel (202-205-3091 or william.gearhart@usitc.gov). The media should contact Margaret O'Laughlin, Office of External Relations (202-205-1819 or margaret.olaughlin@usitc.gov).

Hearing-impaired individuals may obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal at 202-205-1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its website at <https://www.usitc.gov>. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000.

Background: Section 215(a)(1) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) (19 U.S.C. 2704(a)(1)) requires that the Commission submit biennial reports to the Congress and the President regarding the economic impact of the Act on U.S. industries and consumers, and on the economy of the beneficiary countries. Section 215(b)(1) requires that the reports include, but not be limited to, an assessment regarding:

- (A) the actual effect, during the period covered by the report, of [CBERA] on the United States economy generally, as well as on those specific domestic industries which produce articles that are like, or directly competitive with, articles being imported into the United States from beneficiary countries; and

(B) the probable future effect which this Act will have on the United States economy generally, as well as on such domestic industries, before the provisions of this Act terminate.

The report will cover trade with the 17 beneficiary countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Curaçao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Notice of institution of the investigation was published in the *Federal Register* of May 14, 1986 (51 FR 17678). The Commission plans to transmit the 24th report, covering calendar years 2017 and 2018, by September 30, 2019.

Public Hearing: A public hearing in connection with this investigation will be held at the U.S.

International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on May 14, 2019. Requests to appear at the public hearing should be filed with the Secretary no later than 5:15 p.m., May 3, 2019, in accordance with the requirements in the “Submissions” section below. All pre-hearing briefs and statements should be filed no later than 5:15 p.m., May 8, 2019; and all post-hearing briefs and statements responding to matters raised at the hearing should be filed not later than 5:15 p.m., May 21, 2019. In the event that, as of the close of business on May 6, 2019, no witnesses are scheduled to appear at the hearing, the hearing will be canceled. Any person interested in attending the hearing as an observer or nonparticipant should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000 after May 6, 2019, for information concerning whether the hearing will be held.

Written Submissions: In lieu of or in addition to participating in the hearing, interested parties are invited to file written submissions concerning this investigation no later than 5:15 p.m., June 3, 2019. All written submissions must conform to the provisions of section 201.8 of the Commission’s *Rules of Practice and Procedure* (19 CFR 201.8). Section 201.8 and the Commission’s Handbook on Filing Procedures require that interested parties file documents electronically on or before the filing deadline of June 3, 2019 and submit eight (8) true paper copies by 12:00 noon eastern time on the next business

day. In the event that confidential treatment of a document is requested, interested parties must file, at the same time as the eight paper copies, at least four (4) additional true paper copies in which the confidential information must be deleted (see the following paragraph for further information regarding confidential business information). Persons with questions regarding electronic filing should contact the Office of the Secretary, Docket Services Division (202-205-1802).

Confidential Business Information: Any submissions that contain confidential business information must also conform to the requirements of section 201.6 of the *Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure* (19 CFR 201.6). Section 201.6 of the rules requires that the cover of the document and the individual pages be clearly marked as to whether they are the "confidential" or "non-confidential" version, and that the confidential business information be clearly identified by means of brackets. All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be made available for inspection by interested parties.

The Commission intends to prepare a report that it can release to the public in its entirety, and the Commission will not include any confidential business information in the report it sends to Congress and the President or makes available to the public. However, all information, including confidential business information, submitted in this investigation may be disclosed to and used: (i) by the Commission, its employees and Offices, and contract personnel (a) for developing or maintaining the records of this or a related proceeding, or (b) in internal investigations, audits, reviews, and evaluations relating to the programs, personnel, and operations of the Commission including under 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3; or (ii) by U.S. government employees and contract personnel for cybersecurity purposes. The Commission will not otherwise disclose any confidential business information in a manner that would reveal the operations of the firm supplying the information.

Summaries of Written Submissions: The Commission intends to publish summaries of positions of interested persons in an appendix to its report. Persons wishing to have a summary of their position included in the report should include a summary with their written submission and the summary should

be marked as intended to be included in the designated appendix in the Commission's report. The summary may not exceed 500 words, should be in MSWord format or a format that can be easily converted to MSWord, and should not include any confidential business information. The summary will be published as provided if it meets these requirements and is germane to the subject matter of the investigation. The Commission will identify the name of the organization furnishing the summary, and will include a link to the Commission's Electronic Document Information System (EDIS) where the full written submission can be found.

By order of the Commission.

Lisa Barton,
Secretary to the Commission.

Issued: April 16, 2019.

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